

BETTER SERVICES FOR LONDONERS



Future commissioning priorities of the ALG's Grant Scheme:
a consultation paper



Foreword

The Association of London Government has played a major part in the funding of the capital's voluntary sector since we took on the job from the former London Boroughs Grants organisation five years ago. We are proud of the part we have played in helping to fund more than 400 voluntary groups in various parts of London.

In our continual efforts to improve and to deliver the best possible services, we set up a special review board, under an independent chair, to look at all aspects of the scheme. The Board made some important recommendations about how it could be improved, and after consultation with the voluntary sector, the main thrust of the recommendations was welcomed by London's borough leaders in September.

One of the most important of these recommendations was a move from a bidding process to a commissioning base. In other words, instead of groups asking us for funding to help them deliver whatever happens to be their speciality service, we decide on priorities and the services that should be funded, and then look for the groups best able to deliver them. Such a change can only be implemented after full discussion with all interested parties, and this document signals the start of that process.

I want to be clear that we have no preconceived ideas about this. The suggestions included in this document are there to stimulate debate. We want people's views on whether these are the right priorities, and if not, what our priorities should be.

I hope that all those involved in London's thriving and diverse voluntary sector take the opportunity to tell us what they think. We want to get it right so that Londoners throughout the capital get an even better service.

Sir Robin Wales
Chair, Association of London Government

Introduction

The Association of London Government distributes some £28 million a year to more than 400 voluntary groups, on behalf of the 33 London councils. Following recommendations made earlier this year by an independently-chaired Grants Review Board, London council leaders decided that changes should be made to the way this money is distributed.

From 2007/08, instead of groups bidding for funding, the ALG will commission voluntary organisations to deliver the services that Londoners need and want. To ensure that the new method results in better services right across the capital, it is essential that the priorities are agreed and clearly set out before the changes are implemented.

This document aims to gather the views of key stakeholders about the future priorities for the grant scheme's funding. It signals the start of a comprehensive consultation process that will run until March 2006, and will include a series of open meetings across London. The ALG will also hold specific meetings with a range of key stakeholders, including members and officers from London boroughs, representatives of the voluntary and community sector, the Mayor of London, and other funding organisations.

Context

An independently chaired Grants Review Board produced the Funding for the Future report in January 2005, which set out recommendations for the way the ALG's grant scheme should be managed and delivered after the end of the ALG's current cycle of grants in March 2007.

The ALG consulted on the recommendations set out in the report and the ALG's Leaders' Committee agreed to implement the recommendations at its meeting in September 2005, with some revisions to take account of consultation responses. This consultation document aims to start a discussion about what the ALG's grants scheme should fund.

Grants scheme purpose

The ALG Leaders' Committee agreed the overall purpose of the ALG's grants scheme in September 2005:

To enable the independent voluntary and community sector to play a key role, in partnership with the private and public sectors, in maintaining London as a world city and delivering high quality, value-for-money services that meet the needs of London. In particular to support organisations that increase access to London's opportunities; and/or reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage; and/or promote equality and reduce discrimination.

Grants scheme principles

In September 2005, the ALG's Leaders' Committee also agreed the principles of the ALG's grants scheme that underpin the grant scheme purpose:

- ◆ To meet identified strategic needs by funding pan-London services or London-wide patterns of provision
 - ◆ Identified needs must affect the majority of Londoners or are of strategic importance
 - ◆ Support sub-regional services that form part of a strategic or pan-London pattern of provision
 - ◆ Pan-London services should reflect collaborative unified approaches
 - ◆ To promote the most efficient distribution and use of resources in London
- The ALG's future priorities must deliver the grants scheme purpose and principles.*

Future priority areas

The ALG has put forward outcome areas that it considers strongly support the delivery of the three funding themes in the grants scheme purpose (increase access to London's opportunities; and/or reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage; and/or promote equality and reduce discrimination). The diagram on the next page relates top level outcome areas to the three funding themes in the grants scheme purpose.

Increased access to London's opportunities

Increased engagement in employment, education and cultural activities

Improved knowledge and skills

Improved health and well-being

Improved public services

Reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage

Increased confidence, self-esteem and motivation

Reduced social exclusion

Improved physical environment

Promote equality and reduce discrimination

Reduced violence and abuse

Increased access to health and welfare services

Improved community well-being

The following pages show services that we suggest would contribute to delivering the top level outcome areas. While some of these deliver more than one of the proposed top level outcome areas, for the purposes of the consultation paper the currently funded services have been grouped under the main outcome they relate to.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified top level outcome areas that increase access to London's opportunities; and/or reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage; and/or promote equality and reduce discrimination?

Consultation Question: Which of the top level outcome areas that we have identified do you consider to be the highest priorities? Do you have access to evidence to support prioritisation?

The ALG is strongly committed to providing services that meet the needs of all Londoners. We welcome views from all with an interest in our grants programme. We strongly encourage organisations and individuals to put forward ideas for how the outcome areas relate to the needs of socially excluded or disadvantaged groups.

Increase access to London's opportunities:

Increased engagement in employment, education and cultural activities

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Improved engagement in employment, education and cultural activities'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Improved engagement in employment, education and cultural activities'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Advice provision for black and minority ethnic (BME), refugee and migrant communities
- ◆ Educational activities to help children and young people achieve more
- ◆ Improve access to employment opportunities for BME communities, homeless people, people at risk of becoming homeless, refugees and young people
- ◆ Increase visits to attractions and destinations in outer London
- ◆ Promote access and participation in building based cultural activities for BME Communities, disabled people, young people, older people and refugees
- ◆ Promote access and participation in sport activities among BME Communities, disabled people, young people, older people and refugees
- ◆ Promote access and participation in tourism for BME Communities, disabled people, young people, older people and refugees
- ◆ Promote access and participation in carnival activities
- ◆ Promote training, guidance and educational activities for young homeless people
- ◆ Provide access to and participation in touring cultural activities for BME communities, disabled people, homeless people, young people, older people and refugees
- ◆ Support community sports across London linked to the London Olympics
- ◆ Support volunteer programmes for the London Olympics
- ◆ Training to enable people from under-represented groups to work in childcare
- ◆ Training for women to improve access to traditionally male-dominated employment areas
- ◆ Work with offenders, young offenders and young people at risk of offending

Increase access to London's opportunities:

Improved knowledge and skills

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Improved knowledge and skills'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Improved knowledge and skills'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Community participation and active citizenship initiatives disseminating knowledge of the decision-making processes in the public sector
- ◆ Educational activities to promote conservation, sustainable living, outdoor activities and use of green spaces particularly for young people
- ◆ Improve parenting skills for families in crisis
- ◆ Improve the knowledge and skills of homeless people to access housing advice and services to move towards securing permanent accommodation
- ◆ Promote access to advice raising clients' knowledge of their entitlements and the way public services operate
- ◆ Promote action to improve air quality and reduce levels of pollution (including noise)
- ◆ Promote better health for women, particularly disadvantaged women and women from BME communities
- ◆ Promote more sustainable forms of transport
- ◆ Provide advocacy services to improve knowledge of health and social care provision in London for people with learning disabilities, carers and people with mental health problems
- ◆ Support people to use energy more efficiently, to use renewable materials and recycle waste, and to make green purchasing choices

Increase access to London's opportunities:

Improved health and well-being

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Improved health and well-being'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Improved health and well-being'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Advice services for black and minority ethnic, refugee and migrant communities facilitating better access to public services
- ◆ Advice services for vulnerable young people to reduce homelessness, crime or substance misuse
- ◆ Counselling services or advice for women affected by domestic violence or rape and sexual abuse
- ◆ Ensure people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS (particularly African communities) are accessing appropriate health services
- ◆ Improve mental health of minority groups in London through counselling, psychotherapy services and advocacy/self-advocacy
- ◆ Provide advice, counselling and therapeutic services to people who misuse alcohol and drugs
- ◆ Provide support and advice for victims of crime including victims of racist and homophobic crime
- ◆ Provide support to children and young people who are bullied, and work to reduce bullying
- ◆ Reduce the fear of crime for women affected by violence

Increase access to London's opportunities:

Improved public services

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Improved public services'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Improved public services'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Advice services challenging unlawful, unreasonable and procedurally improper decisions of public service providers
- ◆ Advice services working in partnership with local authorities, primary care trusts and other providers of public services to ensure that the needs of marginalised client groups are addressed
- ◆ Campaign and provide information about childcare
- ◆ Influence decisions on housing advice and homelessness prevention and crisis intervention
- ◆ Promote accessible transport for disabled people and older people
- ◆ Promote the needs of disadvantaged groups to policy-makers and service providers
- ◆ Support the voluntary sector to engage with schools to work with socially excluded groups
- ◆ Young people's advice services improving access to public services

Reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage:

Increased confidence, self-esteem and motivation

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Increased confidence, self-esteem and motivation'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Increased confidence, self-esteem and motivation'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Counselling for children and young people who have behavioural difficulties
- ◆ Counselling for children and young people who have been abused
- ◆ Support marginalised groups to understand and access their rights and entitlements
- ◆ Work with ex-offenders and ex-prisoners who are homeless on release

Reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage:

Reduced social exclusion

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Reduced social exclusion'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Reduced social exclusion'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Access to drop-in sessions in day centres for homeless people and families
- ◆ Advice services working to promote financial inclusion
- ◆ Challenge discriminatory practices and abuse of the rights enshrined in the Human Rights Act and other equalities legislation
- ◆ Enforce the rights and entitlements of socially excluded communities increasing access to services and opportunities
- ◆ Facilitate better access to education and out of school activities for young carers
- ◆ Social activities for adopted children, young people and their families
- ◆ Social activities for disabled children and their families
- ◆ Social activities for socially excluded women
- ◆ Promote outreach services and resettlement activities to homeless people, in particular rough sleepers and single homeless people
- ◆ Support children affected by domestic violence or abuse

Reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage:

Improved physical environment

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Improved physical environment'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Improved physical environment'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Activities to increase local community participation in conservation in public spaces including parks, commons, rivers, allotments and other green spaces
- ◆ Environment activities to encourage more public involvement in creating a better street environment in London
- ◆ Provide advice, information and advocacy around the planning system
- ◆ Work to bring about reduced levels of anti-social behaviour, and reducing vandalism, graffiti, and gang activities

Promote equality and reduce discrimination:

Reduced violence and abuse

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Reduced violence and abuse'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Reduced violence and abuse'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Access to services for children in women's refuges
- ◆ Accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence
- ◆ Provide advocacy services for women affected by domestic violence
- ◆ Reduce the levels of domestic violence, rape, and racist and homophobic crime
- ◆ Work with offenders, young offenders and young people at risk of committing violent crime
- ◆ Reduce the impact of domestic violence, rape and racist and homophobic crime through support for victims/survivors

Promote equality and reduce discrimination:

Increased access to health and welfare services

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Increased access to health and welfare services'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Increased access to health and welfare services'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Information/outreach on childcare and pre-school education to disadvantaged groups
- ◆ Promote awareness of health issues for particular groups such as people living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS, mental health problems, people with learning difficulties and carers for people with learning difficulties
- ◆ Promote initiatives that provide specialist health and social care services for people with multiple and/or complex needs
- ◆ Support schemes that provide easy access to health and social care services for people to make informed choices about their welfare

Promote equality and reduce discrimination:

Improved community well-being

We have provided examples of the kind of services we could fund under this outcome area.

Consultation Question: Do you consider that we have identified services that will deliver 'Improved community well-being'?

Consultation Question: Are there additional services that you believe could better deliver 'Improved community well-being'?

Consultation Question: What do you consider are the priority services for funding?

We welcome any evidence of need that you can provide to help us prioritise the services that we should fund.

Suggested services:

- ◆ Promote community safety through preventive and innovative approaches
- ◆ Promote community participation and active citizenship
- ◆ Promote road safety in street design (especially in areas of deprivation/high incidence of road accidents)
- ◆ Work to reduce re-offending and reduce levels of crime and the fear of crime
- ◆ Promote community cohesion

Next steps

The ALG welcomes views and evidence of need from all with an interest in the future of our funding. Please send your submissions to:

'ALG's future funding priorities'
Association of London Government,
59½ Southwark Street,
London
SE1 0AL

or e-mail:

future.priorities@alg.gov.uk

The closing date for submissions is Friday 17 March 2006

Please register with our e-mail alert service which will keep you informed about news about our grants programme at www.alg.gov.uk/emailalert



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